

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151822

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E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: VESCO CASE -- EXTRADITION LAW

REFS: (A) SAN JOSE 2619; (B) STATE 149344

1. WE HAVE ADVISED U.S. ATTORNEYS OF UPCOMING MEETING WITH UMANA. THEY AGREED THAT STATE SHOULD HANDLE THIS DISCUSSION OF THE VESCO EXTRADITION LAW AND SHOWED NO INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING. RAYHILL IS LEAVING THE OFFICE AND SAGOR AND WING ARE BOTH OCCUPIED WITH GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION THIS WEEK.

2. WHILE WE SEE ADVANTAGES IN PARTICIPATION BY U.S. ATTORNEY IN MEETING WITH UMANA, ON BALANCE WE BELIEVE IT BEST NOT TO PUSH THE ISSUE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF OUR OWN CONCERNS REF. B. AS AMBASSADOR IS AWARE WE HAVE HAD REPEATED MEETINGS WITH U.S. ATTORNEY, JUSTICE AND SEC TO KEEP THEM APPRISED OF YOUR PROBLEMS. THIS COULD BECOME RELEVANT IN EVENT U.S. ATTORNEY SHOULD DESIRE TO INITIATE
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A NEW EXTRADITION REQUEST EVEN IF THE VESCO LAW IS NOT

AMENDED. THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE

FOR INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF EXTRADITION. IT WILL BE
OUR DUTY TO ADVISE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ON THE
PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE EMBASSY
AND LOCAL COUNSEL AS FEASIBLE. WE HAVE LAID A BASIS FOR
TAKING A FIRM POSITION IN THIS EVENT BUT IT WOULD BE
NECESSARY FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO ASSESS ALL IMPLICATIONS
OF THE PROBLEM SHOULD THIS CONTINGENCY ARISE. KISSINGER

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